

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 04402 201154Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 IO-13 ACDA-07 ARA-10 /102 W
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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4923
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 4402

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR ET SU OAU
SUBJ: OAU COMMISSION ON ETHIOPIAN/SUDAN PROBLEMS

REF: A. ADDIS ABABA 4360 (NOTAL), B. ADDIS ABABA 4293 (NOTAL)

1. CAMEROONIAN AMBASSADOR DICKO TOLD CHARGE JULY 19 THAT OAU IS ATTEMPTING TO CONVENE NEWLY-CREATED COMMISSION FOR ETHIOPIAN/SUDANESE PROBLEMS ON JULY 29, PRESUMABLY IN ADDIS. DICKO THOUGHT THERE WAS CHANCE THAT OLDER ETHIOPIA/SOMALIA COMMISSION MIGHT MEET AT SAME TIME SINCE FOUR MEMBERS OF THAT COMMISSION INCLUDING CAMEROON WERE ALSO MEMBERS OF ETHIOPIA/SUDAN COMMISSION.

2. DICKO SAID HE WAS MODERATLY OPTIMISTIC THAT SOMETHING USEFUL MIGHT COME OUT OF WORK OF ETHIOPIA/SUDAN COMMISSION. HE FORESAW TWO SEPARATE STAGES: FIRST TO
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PAGE 02 ADDIS 04402 201154Z

LOWER LEVEL OF TENSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, SECOND TO TRY AND DEAL WITH ERITREAN PROBLEM. ON FIRST, HE THOUGHT SOME PROGRESS WAS POSSIBLE (IN FACT, LEVEL OF INVECTIVE AGAINST SUDAN IN LOCAL MEDIA HAS EASED IN RECENT DAYS). ON SECOND, HE THOUGHT OAU COULD BUT TRY. KEY IN HIS JUDGMENT WAS WHAT ETHIOPIANS WOULD BE WILLING ACCEPT (HE FULLY UNDERSTANDS ERITREANS WILL ALSO BE

PROBLEM) AND THOUGHT COMMISSION MIGHT TRY PUSHING FOR SOLUTION GRANTING ERITREA CONSIDERABLE AUTONOMY ALONG LINES OF FEDERATED NIGERIA. DICKO SAID COMMISSION WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY BE GUIDED IN ITS WORK BY TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY PROVISION OF OAU CHARTER, ADDING THAT HE MIGHT BE MORE CONFIDENT OF AN AFRICAN SOLUTION FOR AN AFRICAN PROBLEM WERE IT NOT FOR PROBLEM OF INTERFERENCE BY NON-AFRICAN COUNTRIES, SPECIFICALLY SUCH ARABS AS SAUDI ARABIA, SYRIA AND IRAQ, POSSIBLE IMPACT OF WHICH HE COULD NOT YET JUDGE. HE ALSO THOUGHT PRESENCE OF CUBANS IN ETHIOPIA MIGHT BE UNHELPFUL FACTOR IN TACKLING BOTH SUDANESE AND SOMALIAN PROBLEMS SINCE IN HIS VIEW CUBANS ALSO REPRESENTED A KIND OF OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE IN AFRICAN MATTERS THAT MORE AND MORE AFRICANS WERE BECOMING CONCERNED ABOUT.

3. COMMENT: DICKO IS HIGHLY-RESPECTED DEAN OF BOTH DIP CORPS AND AFRICANS IN ADDIS WITH LONG YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN OAU MATTERS. A MODERATE, HIS NATURAL INSTINCTS ARE TO TALK MATTERS OUT IN AN AFRICAN CONTEXT. IF OAU COMMISSION CAN ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING, IT WILL BE BECAUSE OF PEOPLE LIKE HIM. DEGREE TO WHICH HIS REMARKS RE CUBANS ARE REFLECTIVE OF MORE WIDESPREAD AFRICAN STATEMENT IN ETHIOPIAN FRAMEWORK IS DIFFICULT FOR US TO JUDGE, HOWEVER.

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PAGE 03 ADDIS 04402 201154Z

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